

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 HEW-04 INRE-00 SSO-00 SS-15
SP-02 L-03 NSC-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 OIC-02 /082 W
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O R 261351Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2176
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ILO, ELAB, FR
SUBJECT: ILO 1978 CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 127537

1. SUMMARY: THE USG'S VIEWS HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE APPROPRIATE FRENCH GOVERNMENT, EMPLOYER, AND WORKER REPRESENTATIVES. THE GOVERNMENT AND THE EMPLOYERS HAVE BOTH RAISED THE QUESTION OF OUR VACANT SEAT AND HOW WE MIGHT REACT IF IT IS FILLED NEXT WEEK. END SUMMARY.

2. AS STATE AND LABOR ARE AWARE, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT AND EMPLOYERS HAVE SHOWN SOME UNDERSTANDING OF THE US POSITION ON THE ILO, AS HAVE CERTAIN TRADE UNIONISTS. THIS YEAR THAT TENDENCY MAY BE REINFORCED BY THE ROTATION OF FO INTO THE FRENCH WORKER DELEGATE SEAT, AND THE POSSIBLE ELECTION OF THE FRENCH EMPLOYER DELEGATE AS HEAD OF THE EMPLOYERS' GROUP.

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3. THE FRENCH WORKER DELEGATE AT THE 1978 CONFERENCE WILL BE ANTOINE LAVAL, NATIONAL SECRETARY OF FORCE OUVRIERE RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. LAVAL, WELL KNOWN TO US AND TO THE AFL-CIO, IS FULLY CONVERSANT WITH THE ISSUES FACING THE CONFERENCE, AND THEIR POSSIBLE IMPACT ON THE FUTURE US RELATION-

SHIP WITH THE ILO. HOWEVER, LAVAL HAS NOT BEEN IN PARIS LONG ENOUGH SINCE THE RECEIPT OF REFTEL TO PERMIT MORE THAN A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF THE SPECIFIC POINTS RAISED.

4. THE EMPLOYERS' REPRESENTATIVE IS J. J. OECHSLIN, WHO IS WELL KNOWN TO THE USG, AND WHO IS A CANDIDATE FOR THE POST OF HEAD OF THE EMPLOYERS' GROUP. OECHSLIN HAS BEEN FULLY BRIEFED ON THE POINTS COVERED IN THE REFTEL, AS HAS THE QUAI. BOTH RAISED THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE ACTION BEING TAKEN NEXT WEEK AT THE COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION TO FILL THE US'S EMPTY CHAIR. THOSE INTERESTED IN ELIMINATING PERMANENT REPRESENTATION ON THE GOVERNING BODY ARE SAID TO INTEND TO FILL THE VACANCY. THE QUAI TELLS US THAT THEY HAVE TRIED TO OUTFLANK THIS MOVE, WITHOUT SUCCESS; AND THE PATRONAT ASKED HOW THE FILLING OF OUR FORMER SEAT MIGHT AFFECT OUR EVENTUAL DECISION. IN THE ABSENCE OF SPECIFIC GUIDANCE ON THAT POINT, WE REPLIED ONLY THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY BE ONE OF MANY FACTORS WHICH WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN FRAMING THE FINAL RECOMMENDATION.

5. WITH RESPECT TO THE OTHER ISSUES, QUAI OFFICER FORTUIT INTENDS TO CONTACT QUACKENBUSH IN GENEVA TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENTS IN DETAIL, AND WE SUGGEST THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OECHSLIN AND LAVAL BE SOUGHT OUT FOR SEPARATE DISCUSSIONS.

6. AS OF THIS TIME, PRIME MINISTER BARRE, LABOR AND PARTICIPATION MINISTER BOULIN, AND POSSIBLY FOREIGN MINISTER GUIRINGAUD WILL BE IN GENEVA ON JUNE 15 TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE.
HARTMAN

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